

## OTHER NOTICES

**Eyles, Leonora.** *The New "Commonsense about Sex".* London, 1956. Gollancz. Pp. 93. Price 6s.

THIS is a candid book, directly and simply written. The style is colloquial and conversational, rather than literary. Anyone who can read can understand the opinions expressed and the advice given. The subject matter comes from the writer's experience as an "Aunt Martha" in the popular Press.

There are a few medical inaccuracies, which do not matter very much. But I am sorry to find a definite statement declaring that a bride's hymen must be ruptured with pain and bleeding. Pain can be avoided with a little skill, and bleeding is rare. Many women are greatly worried by this bogey.

The diagrams are unfortunate. They could be much more accurate. The inclusion of the kidneys and bladder confuses the picture rather than clarifies it.

Otherwise the counsel contained in this small volume is useful, genuine and sincere.

ROSAMOND BISCHOFF.

**Macaulay, Mary.** *The Art of Marriage.* Third Edition. London, 1956. Delisle. Pp. 110. 7s. 6d.

**Wright, Helena.** *Sex: An outline for young people.* Third Edition. London, 1956. Benn. Pp. x + 116. Price 8s. 6d.

THESE are two small books written by people who know what they are talking about and who can put their knowledge and ideals into simple but often trenchant language. Both books have stood the test of time and have run through two editions; adults and adolescents of both sexes will be grateful to the authors and publishers for producing a third.

Dr. Macaulay writes with the warm-hearted confidence of one who is happily married and her obvious sincerity carries the reader with her. Her wisdom and wide experience in dealing with the many problems encountered in married life is here crystallized in thirteen short chapters and two appendices which range from adolescent friendships through courtship, the honeymoon, early marriage and family life to the adjustments necessary in middle life and old age. Brief chapters on infertility and contraceptives are included. There are nice touches of humour here and there and some wise sayings which stick in the mind as for example: "happiness after all is not to have what you like but to like what you have."

Dr. Wright has successfully achieved the difficult task of writing a book for the young without appearing to write down to them. She gives a brief and rather sketchy outline of sexual reproduction in plants and animals, including man, with some nice line drawings; but probably the most valuable part of the book is the final chapter on the development of the sex instinct and its control which is admirably discussed in a simple downright manner—as she says "luckily for the next generation the idea is dying that it is rather nasty and unfortunate to have sex feelings at all." At the same time she is no advocate of indiscriminate experimentation with sex for the young. "No good things can be attained in life without a certain amount of effort and self control . . . we should be introduced as early as possible to the attitude of mind which recognises that happy civilized life can only be attained by the deliberate harnessing of primitive instincts."

MARGARET HADLEY JACKSON.

**Petersen, William** (Editor). *American Social Patterns.* Garden City, N.Y., 1956. Doubleday. (A Doubleday Anchor Book.) Pp. 263. Price 95 cents.

EDITED and introduced by Dr. William Petersen, this pocket-sized, paper-covered book is packed with information and is for the most part based on a staggering number of interviews with members of the public in the various fields covered. It consists of five studies of different facets of the American social pattern; three of these are abridged from books previously published and the other two are reprinted, the earliest being dated 1944. Each is followed by a short bibliography.

*The People's Choice*, by Paul F. Lazarfeld, Bernard Berelson and Hazel Gaudet, is an attempt to discover how and why people decide to vote as they do. In this inquiry, which took place in Erie County, Ohio, in 1940, four groups of 600 persons each were selected from a "poll" of 3,000. Three groups were re-interviewed once, the fourth once each month from May to November, and their responses to campaign propaganda recorded with some interesting results, but the conclusion arrived at is that "people can move other people."

*The Dynamics of Bureaucracy* by Peter M. Blau is a study of the personnel of a State employment agency. *Union Democracy and Secondary Organization* by Seymour M. Lipset, Martin A. Trow and James S. Coleman deals with American trade unions in general and the International Typographical Union in particular.

Probably the remaining two sections are of greater interest to English readers: Leo Lowenthal contributes an article on *Biographies in Popular Magazines*, the journals considered being *Collier's* and the *Saturday Evening Post*. Biographies have increased enormously in popularity—from an average of thirty-six a year between 1901 and 1914 to 125 in 1940 and 1941. "It is some comfort to the little man . . . who despairs of penetrating the thicket of grand strategy in politics and business, to see his heroes as a lot of guys who like or dislike highballs, cigarettes, tomato juice, golf, and social gatherings—just like himself. . . . He can experience the gratification of being confirmed in his own pleasures and discomforts by participating in the pleasures and discomforts of the great."

*Interracial Housing* by Morton Deutsch and Mary E. Collins: Residential segregation which comes about by the simple process of the Whites moving out of an area when the Negroes move in, tends to bring with it segregation in most social

activities from amusement to shopping: the White does not look upon the Negro as an individual with his own problems, joys and sorrows, but as an inhabitant of a slum where the shortage of housing and the resultant over-crowding have brought instability, delinquency and brutalization.

The field work on which this study is based was carried out in recent housing projects in New York and Newark, N.J. In each city there is the "integrated interracial pattern" where families are assigned to apartments without consideration of race, and the "segregated biracial pattern" where Negro and White families live in the same project but are assigned to different buildings. It was found that the former system produced a more broadminded and unprejudiced attitude towards members of the other race. But it is pointed out that at the present time there are very many cities in the United States where such a project would be impractical.

K. H.

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CONTENTS

November 1956

T. VAN HECK. Roman-Catholicism and Fertility in the Netherlands: The Demographic Influence of a Remarkable Minority Position.

K. L. GILLION. The Sources of Indian Emigration to Fiji.

I. M. CUMSTON. The Survey of Indian Immigration to British Tropical Colonies to 1910.

R. MANSELL PROTHERO. The Population Census of Northern Nigeria 1952: Problems and Results.

H. S. HALEVI. Divorces in Israel.

C. A. L. MYBURGH. Estimating the Fertility and Mortality of African Populations.

Book Reviews.

List of Books and Publications Received.

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